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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **NISHIUCHI, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1763

Serial No.: **10/615,381**

Examiner: **Richard BUEKER**

Filed: **July 9, 2003**

**P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 1378**

**FOR: SURFACE TREATING PROCESS, SURFACE TREATING APPARATUS,  
VAPOR-DEPOSITING MATERIAL, AND RARE EARTH METAL-BASED  
PERMANENT MAGNET WITH SURFACE TREATED**

**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 24, 2006

Sir:

In response to a telephone conference of yesterday, attached are certified translations of Japanese applications 11-134998 and 11-134999 which would remove EP 0992605 as any reference in this application.

The claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/615,381

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,  
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP

*William G. Kratz, Jr.* #36,938

William G. Kratz, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/nrp  
Atty. Docket No. 000593B  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



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Enclosures: Certified translations of JP 11-134998 and JP 11-134999